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Alpena LWV Web site
www.lwvalpenacounty.org

LWV State Web site
www.lwvmi.org

LWV US Web site
www.lwv.org

November 2011 League of Women Voters of Alpena County

Redistricting the topic for November Meeting

Join us on **November 10, at 7 PM at ACC, room 114 in the Center Building** for a program on Redistricting. Tim Kuehnlein, Political Science Instructor at ACC will lead a discussion following a showing of the film *Gerrymandering*. This program is free and open to the public.

Redistricting is the process by which states draw electoral district boundaries, determining which population groups may vote for specific candidates or delegates in local, state and national elections. These processes, which vary from state to state, have come under attack from politicians on both sides of the aisle because of the impact they have on election outcomes. The League of Women Voters of Alpena County, along with both the Michigan and National Leagues, is currently working on projects to educate the public regarding redistricting rules and their effects.

The LWVMI voted at convention to study redistricting and a committee is gathering program materials and forming consensus questions. The state needs a strong statement about how districts are redrawn before the next census takes place.

For more information go to www.drawthelinemidwest.org.

Kellie Poli to talk about Kids Zone

Join us for dinner at the **Alpena Golf Course on Monday, December 12** and enjoy learning about Kids Zone from Kellie Poli. Kellie, a teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, and her co-workers have developed a program similar to Jr. Achievement that is used in the upper grades. Lincoln students use math, social studies and science to run businesses. Kelli will tell us about this project at our December meeting.



The social time begins at **5 PM** with the speaker at 5:30 PM and the dinner at 6 PM. Dinner choices are (1) Planked whitefish, tossed salad, rolls, potato, and vegetable for \$20.51 which includes tax and tip or (2) Raspberry Chicken with grilled onions and peppers sautéed in a raspberry vinaigrette and served over tender pasta, tossed salad, vegetable and garlic toast for \$13.29 which includes tax and tip. The dessert will be furnished by League members. **Please reserve your place by calling Pauline Buchner at 340-0391 or e-mail at pbuchner@charter.net by December 5, Monday.** Spouses and friends are welcome.

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LWV MI asks League Members to join LWV US Clean Air Promise Campaign

Suzanne Dixon, Natural Resources director, reported that polling indicates that the majority of voters support Clean Air regulations, despite Clean Air policies being halted by the US Congress. Data shows that these policies have been in place for over 40 years and that the economy has grown over 200 percent during this time and that Clean Air Amendments have significantly exceeded their direct costs by 30 to 1.



LWV MI members are called upon to join the LWVMI board in making a commitment to support Clean Air policies by joining the LWVUS campaign at www.peoplenotpolluters.org. Members can add their names in support of the campaign and record personal stories about health problems associated with poor air quality. LWVMI president Sue Smith attended a press conference in October with US Representative Hansen Clarke from eastern Detroit who joins the League's call for support. Suzanne is looking for additional business and political leaders who may also support our campaign. If you would like to join the team of advocates for Clean Air, contact her at sydbarret7@aol.com or 616-335-5078.

LWV MI presents Regional workshops

Learn about the Exciting on-line Voter Resource VOTE 411

League members are invited to participate in any of the regional workshops, sponsored by the state board of LWVMI, to help re-energize the work of the League in preparation for the 2012 election. Each event will begin with registration at 10 AM and conclude at 3 PM.

- October 29 Saginaw
- November 5 Traverse City
- November 19 Livonia

Each of the workshops will share voter service and communications tools and resources to maximize league's role, visibility and effectiveness during the 2012 election cycle. Workshops include an introduction to the exciting on-line voter education and Voter Guide resource www.VOTE411.org, which is being offered free to all Michigan Leagues. Use of new media—websites, Face book, Twitter, etc.—to maximize voter service efforts will also be explored. Call or e-mail Anne Nave if any of these workshops would fit into your schedule. 727-3029 or annenave@aol.com

LWV US convention to be in Washington, DC in June 2012



Would you like to be a delegate to US League Convention? Talk to Nancy Hammond or Anne Nave to find out what an exciting time National League Convention can be. The League US Convention will be June 8-12, 2012 in Washington, DC. Convention will include visits to the Hill, great speakers, interesting workshops and training.

Observer Corps

Help bring "Sunshine" to local government. "Sunshine" is the term used for transparency in government by the League. The Alpena chapter of League is in the process of re-energizing its Observation Corp. There are many opportunities for members to help bring transparency to local government in Alpena.

What is an Observer?

A person that sits in a local governmental unit meeting, or watches on local access T.V., notes what happens and reports back to the League and hopefully the community. This person will learn more about what their government is doing and about the issues facing our community.

Some of the meetings in our community are;

County Board of Commissioners - Last Tues, Mable Joseph—observer

County Finance Bd. - 3rd Wed - Marie Dulley—observer

City Planning - 2nd Tues - Nancy Hammond—observer

City Council - 1st and 3rd Monday also by local access T.V.-

Inter-Governmental - 4 x's a year - Pauline Buchner—observer

A.C.C. board -3rd Thurs.

School board- 2nd Mon.

Township Boards - 3rd Mon.

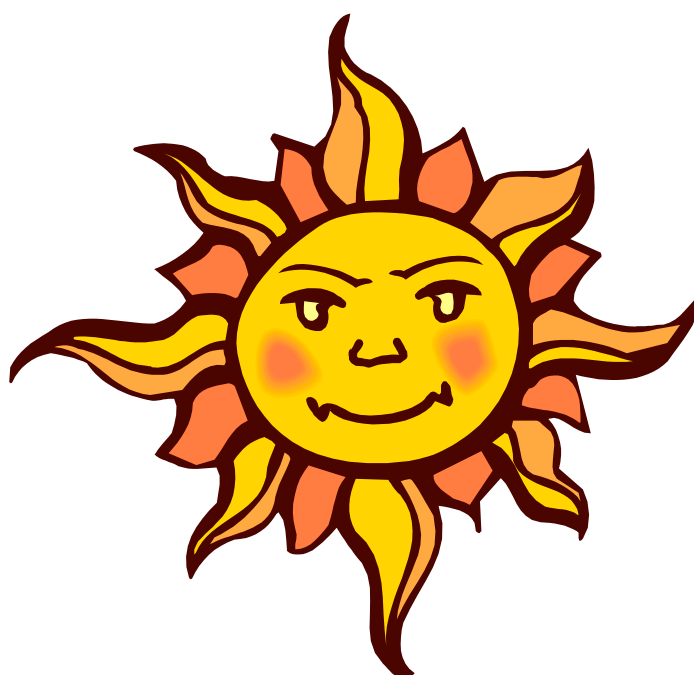
Alpena Township-Pat Ahrens—observer

Michigan Township Assoc.- quarterly 3rd Monday

These are just a few of the possibilities, where does your interest lie, Fair Board, Parks and Recreation.

JOIN THE SUNSHINE----- Contact Nancy Hammond 356-8749

(hammond502@charter.net) if you are interested or have any questions.



Phragmites Clean-up Successful

Thanks to Sue Maxwell who spearheaded a phragmites removal project on 500 feet of private property on Lake Huron near Sue's home. Thirteen League members and volunteers under the direction of experts from Huron Pines worked about an hour clearing the phragmites, an invasive, non-native wetland grass. Then the work group adjourned to Connie's Café in Ossineke for lunch.



Marcia Aten on the left and Judi Stillion on the right work to coat the phragmites leaves with a solution that will help to stop the growth of the plant.

New US League Study—Privatization

The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connections with proposals to transfer federal state or local government services assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

Leagues are encouraged to participate in the study on Privatization of Government services, assets and functions, and the impact on local communities by scheduling meetings to educate members and communities about the issue and come to consensus. Information on this study will be coming to us during the 2011-2012 year. If you are interested please let Marie know.